

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

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NSC-05 /066 W

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R 031014Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0484

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08827

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: US TROOP-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

REF: GERMAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 20

SUMMARY: HOSTED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S CULTURAL DIVISION, GERMAN AND AMERICAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICIALS GATHERED AT A MAY 16 MEETING TO TAKE STOCK OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF US TROOP-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN GERMANY, TO FOCUS ON PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND GAPS IN THE PRESENT RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, AND TO POINT TO WAYS OF STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING ON-GOING PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FOLLOWING UP ON CONCERNS EXPRESSED AT THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HARRISON HOUSE CONFERENCE JANUARY 16-18, AND IN CARRYING OUT A DECISION MADE AT THE GERMAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CONSULTATIONS JANUARY 20, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HOSTED A MEETING MAY 16 ON US TROOP-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN GERMANY. CHAIRED BY DR. WALTER SCHMID, FOREIGN OFFICE CHIEF OF REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDI-  
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NATION, BUREAU OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, IT BROUGHT TOGETHER

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORS OF EUCOM AND USAREUR AND THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS OF EUCOM AND USAF WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE FEDERAL PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE, THE STANDING CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE, AND THE EMBASSY.

2. THE MEETING, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND HELD IN GERMANY, PROVIDED ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY US ARMY AND AIR FORCE UNITS IN GERMANY AND BY THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUBS (WHOSE CHAIRMAN UNTIL RECENTLY WAS EUCOM'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS). MOREOVER, IT BROUGHT OUT THAT THERE IS BOTH A LACK OF INFORMATION AMONG GERMAN CIVIC LEADERS ABOUT THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF US TROOPS AND A LACK OF INFORMATION AMONG US MILITARY UNITS ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN GERMAN COMMUNITIES FOR FURTHERING THE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS. CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS ATTACHED TO US UNITS IN ENGLAND BY THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING ON A TRIAL BASIS TO SOME US UNITS IN GERMANY AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING SENIOR BUNDESWEHR NONCOM WHO WOULD ACT AS A COMMUNITY RELATIONS ASSISTANT TO THE UNIT. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT SOME OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTES CAN PLAY A ROLE IN FURTHERING COMMUNITY-TROOP RELATIONS AND THAT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF CLUBS BASED ON THE PATTERN OF THE NATO SERGEANTS CLUB IN STUTTGART WOULD BE DESIRABLE. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON COOPERATIVE PROJECTS BETWEEN GERMAN SCHOOLS AND US DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS; AND CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED REGARDING COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE WITH THE ACTIVATION OF BRIGADE 75 AND BRIGADE 76. REFERENCE WAS

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CU-04 /066 W

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R 031014Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0485

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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MADE TO THE US BICENTENNIAL WHICH WILL PROVIDE A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN TROOP-COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

3. THE MEETING BROUGHT OUT STRONGLY THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S DESIRE TO CREATE THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAMS A SENSE OF GERMAN-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. WHILE IT DISPOSES AT BEST OVER VERY LIMITED FUNDS TO SUPPORT SUCH PROGRAMS, IT CAN PLAY A ROLE IN FOCUSING THE ATTENTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS ON EXISTING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES. TO STIMULATE ACTIVITIES AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL, DR. SCHMID PROPOSED A FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR EARLY FALL, MORE BROADLY BASED THAN THE MAY 16 MEETING, WHICH WILL IN ADDITION TO THE MAY 16 GROUP BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, SOME OF THE LAENDER, THE SCHOOLS, THE COMMUNITIES WITH THE LARGEST TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, AND A NUMBER OF KEY ORGANIZATIONS CAPABLE OF INITIATING AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE US FORCES IN GERMANY. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS MEETING THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICES OF THE THREE US COMMANDS WILL PREPARE A UNCLASSIFIED

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PAPER LISTING THE AREAS OF US NEEDS WHICH COULD BE MET THROUGH STRENGTHENED AND MORE DIVERSIFIED COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES.

4. MINUTES OF THE MAY 16 MEETING ARE BEING PREPARED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE. COPIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ADDRESSEES WHEN AVAILABLE.  
HILLENBRAND

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